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Payload bay closeout under way on Endeavour

Solar arrays deployed on AIM, other testing under way

◆ **Shuttle Update:** Last week, the orbiter boom sensor system, which is a 50-foot extension for the shuttle's robotic arm, was delivered to OPF No. 2. It is scheduled for installation on **Endeavour** in two weeks. Payload bay configuration and closeout is under way, and the orbiter's portable water system has been successfully checked out. The orbiter docking system airflow verification testing is complete.

Processing of **Discovery**, which returned from the STS-116 mission on Dec. 22, continues in Orbiter Processing Facility bay 3.

Work on the installation of the new station-to-shuttle power transfer system (SSPTS) continues in the forward, mid-body and aft section of the vehicle. Fuel cell No. 2 was installed Friday, and technicians continue to replace thermal tile around the main landing gear door and the external tank doors with a stronger tile, known as BRI tile.

◆ **ELV Update:** The prelaunch processing of NASA's AIM spacecraft has gone well and is on schedule. A critical milestone was achieved when technicians performed a partial deployment of the solar array and successfully conducted an illumination test. Instrument cleaning and calibration is currently under way. The spacecraft separation system was scheduled to be installed last weekend. Mating of the AIM spacecraft to

the Pegasus XL rocket is targeted for April 3.

The mating of the three stages of the Pegasus XL is complete. A flight simulation successfully tested the launch vehicle, including the reaction control system pneumatic thrusters. Next week, prior to mating the AIM spacecraft to the Pegasus XL, the spacecraft will be electrically connected to the launch vehicle for a flight simulation. Another flight simulation will be conducted during the second week of April, after AIM is mechanically mated and electrically integrated to the Pegasus rocket.

■ **Support Groups at KSC Offer Encouragement** — The fallout from a divorce can be devastating and the issues involved in negotiating finances, child custody and new relationships can be difficult. If you are facing these struggles, you don't have to go it alone. Join the **Divorce Recovery** group as it explores these issues and more from 11 to 11:45 a.m. on Wednesdays in the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) office, located in the rear of the OHF Building.

Cancer Support: Cancer is a word you never want to hear applied to your life or the life of a loved one. But, if you have, you are not alone! Join this group to find the support and encouragement you need. Hear how to survive and survive well, from those who have been there. Share your own experiences. The Cancer

Support Group meets from 11 to 11:45 a.m. on Thursdays in the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) office, located in the rear of the OHF Building. The group is open to all whose lives have been touched by cancer.

If you have any questions, please call Wendyann Wyatt, EAP administrator, at 867-7398

■ **Reminder** — Applications for the KSC Fitness Center's activity Wellness of the World are due by close of business **Friday**. Applications must be picked up in person and returned from either the O&C or OSB facility. The 15-week program involves teams; choose your own teammate or have one assigned.

For more information, please send an e-mail to Alycen LaBarca at alycen.m.labarca@nasa.gov.

■ **NASA Science** — When New Horizons flew past Jupiter on Feb. 28, the spacecraft photographed a volcanic eruption on Io that amazed even longtime experts in the field. You can read the full story at http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2007/09mar_alienvolcano.htm?list947891.

Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 10 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to anita.barrett@jbsc.ksc.nasa.gov. For questions or information, e-mail or call 321-867-2815. Find *Countdown* on the Web at <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown-toc.html>.